

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH
STATE DIRECTOR JOHN H. MAGILL

VETERANS VICTORY HOUSE NURSING HOME
ADMINISTRATOR LEEANNE NEWTON, NHA/CRCFA

Summer 2012

DMH
OPERATES A
NETWORK OF
SEVENTEEN
COMMUNITY
MENTAL HEALTH
CENTERS,
42 CLINICS,
FOUR
HOSPITALS,
THREE
VETERANS'
NURSING
HOMES, AND
ONE
COMMUNITY
NURSING HOME.

DMH HOSPITALS AND NURSING HOMES

Columbia, SC

G. Werber Bryan Psychiatric
Hospital

William S. Hall Psychiatric
Institute (Child & Adolescents)

Morris Village Alcohol & Drug
Addiction Treatment Center

C.M. Tucker, Jr. Nursing Care
Center - Stone Pavilion
(Veterans Nursing Home)

C.M. Tucker, Jr. Nursing Care
Center - Roddey Pavilion

Anderson, SC

Patrick B. Harris Psychiatric
Hospital

Richard M. Campbell
Veterans Nursing Home

Walterboro, SC

Veterans Victory House
(Veterans Nursing Home)

DMH HISTORY AND DEMOGRAPHICS

South Carolina has a long history of caring for those suffering from mental illness. In 1694, the Lords Proprietors of South Carolina established that the destitute mentally ill should be cared for by local governments. The concept of "Outdoor Relief," based upon Elizabethan Poor Laws, affirmed that the poor, sick and/or disabled should be taken in or boarded at public expense. In 1762, the Fellowship Society of Charleston established an infirmary for the mentally ill. But it was not until the 1800's that the mental health movement received legislative attention at the state level.

Championing the mentally ill, South Carolina Legislators Colonel Samuel Farrow and Major William Crafts worked zealously to sensitize their fellow lawmakers to the needs of the mentally ill, and on December 20, 1821, the South Carolina State Legislature passed a statute-at-large approving \$30,000 to build the South Carolina Lunatic Asylum and a school for the 'deaf and dumb'. This legislation made South Carolina the second state in the nation (after Virginia) to provide funds for the care and treatment of people with mental illnesses.

The Mills Building, designed by renowned architect Robert Mills, was completed and operational in 1828 as the South Carolina Lunatic Asylum. The facilities

grew through the decades to meet demand, until inpatient occupancy peaked in the 1960's at well over 6,000 patients on any given day. From 1828 through 2011, South Carolina state-run hospitals and nursing homes treated over 947,000 patients and provided over 148,500,000 bed days.

In the 1920's, treatment of the mentally ill began to include outpatient care as well as institutional care. The first outpatient center in South Carolina was established in Columbia in 1923.

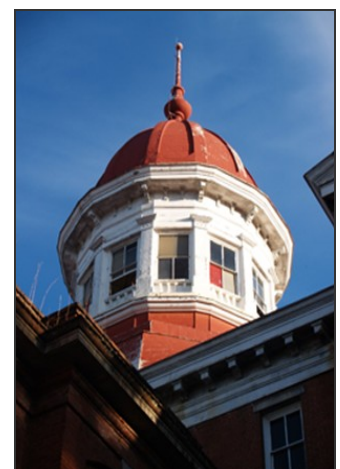
The 1950's saw the discovery of phenothiazines, "miracle drugs" that controlled many severe symptoms of mental illness, making it possible to "unlock" wards. These drugs enabled many patients to function in society and work towards recovery, reducing the need for prolonged hospitalization. Government support and spending increased in the 1960's. The South Carolina Community Mental Health Services Act (1961) and the Federal Community Health Centers Act (1963) provided more funds for local mental health care.

The South Carolina Department of Mental Health (DMH) was founded in 1964. In 1967, the first mental healthcare complex in the South, the Columbia Area Mental Health Center, was built. The centers and clinics have served over 2,800,000 patients, providing over

38,000,000 clinical contacts.

Today, DMH operates a network of 17 community mental health centers, 42 clinics, three veterans' nursing homes, and one community nursing home. DMH is one of the largest hospital and community-based systems of care in South Carolina. In FY11, DMH outpatient clinics provided 1,175,482 clinical contacts and DMH hospitals and nursing homes provided nearly 530,000 bed days. Last year, DMH treated nearly 100,000 citizens, including approximately 30,000 children and adolescents.

DMH
MISSION:
TO SUPPORT
THE RECOVERY
OF PEOPLE
WITH
MENTAL
ILLNESSES.



Babcock Building Cupola



Veterans Victory House
2461 Sidneys Road
Walterboro, SC 29488
843-538-3000

VETERANS VICTORY HOUSE NURSING HOME

Veterans Victory House (VVH), located in Walterboro, is DMH's newest facility for South Carolina veterans who need long-term nursing home care. Dedicated on Veterans Day 2006, the facility has five state-of-the-art pavilions, each named in honor of a South Carolinian who has made great personal sacrifice furthering the cause of freedom around the world.



VVH blueprint

VVH is available to veterans in need of long-term care who have received a general or honorable discharge from one of the five branches of US military service and have been current residents of South Carolina for at least a year.

The DMH facility is supported by funding from the State and the Veteran's Administration. DMH contracts with Health Management Resources Veterans Services, Inc. (HMR) to maintain and operate both VVH and the

Richard M. Campbell Veterans Nursing Home, which is located in Anderson. This partnership enables cost-effective services and a continuum of care to meet the needs of the residents. HMR provides quality care to the residents in a manner which recognizes and celebrates their special status as veterans.

According to Administrator LeeAnne Newton, who has been with VVH since its construction, the award-winning facility is the "Ritz-Carlton" of state veterans' homes.

VVH Medical Director Pete Carnohan, MD and his medical staff have extensive expertise in gerontological and rehabilitative services.

Amenities include large rooms, which allow for easy maneuverability, tall ceilings, and wide hallways. Residents also enjoy donated original art throughout the facility and beautiful grounds with a pond and fountain designed to take advantage of South Carolina's lush Lowcountry landscape.

Residents can participate in a variety of activities under the supervision of trained and certified activity therapists, a

small sampling of which includes annual Memorial Day and Veterans Day celebrations, which draw hundreds of attendees; an Honor Flight to Washington, D.C.; and visits from dignitaries, active service men and women, and Citadel students. In early 2012, the 60th anniversary of the Korean War was commemorated with a special recognition ceremony of VVH's Korean War veterans presented by SC native Lt. Col. Tim Washington.

The local community is actively involved in supporting the residents with assistance, donations, and volunteers. Examples include the Colleton County Veterans Affairs Office, the Walterboro Cruisers' annual car and truck show, the Combat Vets Associations and Ladson VFW's Christmas in May celebration, and H.I.S. Ministries' Horses in Service equine therapy program.

"We would not be here without them. You can't work without a volunteer base of support. We rely on them to make every day special for our vets," Newton said.

VVH is licensed by DHEC and is certified by the Centers for Medicare/Medicaid and the Veterans Administration.



60th anniversary
Korean war ceremony

ACCORDING TO
ADMINISTRATOR
LEEANNE
NEWTON, WHO
HAS BEEN WITH
VVH SINCE ITS
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THE
AWARD-WINNING
FACILITY IS THE
"RITZ-CARLTON"
OF STATE
VETERANS'
HOMES.



VVH residents enjoy visits
with active duty servicemen.



Heyward Hilliard,
Regional Vice President - HMR

"OUR FOCUS IS
THE VETERANS
AND THANKING
THEM FOR
THEIR SERVICE."

NEWTON



LeeAnne Newton,
NHA/CRCFA,
Administrator

HEYWARD HILLIARD, REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT - HMR

Heyward Hilliard, regional vice president of HMR Veterans Services, Inc., believes that VVH has earned its great reputation for a variety of reasons. But primarily because of people – both at Victory House and in the community.

"VVH has good leadership in Ms. Newton and good partnerships with the State and local community. That helps us to provide resources to our vets. The staff is also good about getting our residents involved. If you're here in the mornings, you'll hear a long list of activities planned for the residents to encourage socialization and choice."

Hilliard, a native of Lancas-

ter, began his career in long-term care during an internship at Erskine College, which then turned into a full-time job when he graduated. He has been an administrator with HMR for 10 years.

During visits to VVH, Hilliard makes a point to greet everyone he sees and listens attentively to both residents and staff. "I like to see staff anticipate and identify needs residents didn't even know they had. For instance, the family of a veteran asked about the hats the veterans were wearing indicating the war they were in. They wanted to know where they got those. To us, it was an opportunity." Eight days later, a hat arrived for the

new resident with his service information, hull number, and a picture of the ship he was on. "The family never asked for it, but if we can be in tune with opportunities like that, that makes our overall result better. You can identify those needs just by listening."

Hilliard sees different needs on the horizon for future veterans VVH might serve. As more Korean War and Desert Storm veterans require long-term care, they will expect more technology and privacy in their living environment. Hilliard is preparing early. "We are always trying to find different ways to serve veterans better," he said.

LEEANNE NEWTON, NHA/CRCFA, ADMINISTRATOR

When LeeAnne Newton started her job as administrator in 2006, there wasn't a resident in sight -- or even any walls or carpet. VVH was still under construction, and Newton and her team undertook the daunting task of transforming a dusty site into a welcoming home for South Carolina veterans.

After months of hard work, opening day was one of the most poignant times of Newton's life. "Seeing those first residents and their families come in, everyone was so excited! What I love is that six years later you can still see that excitement when a resident comes in the door."

Newton, a native of Savannah, Georgia, originally planned to be a teacher. While attending Georgia

Southern, she worked part-time as a mental health CNA, which led to her ultimate calling as a nursing home administrator. Her goal is to make each veteran served feel safe, respected, and loved

One special way Newton honors veterans is with the nationally-recognized Hail and Farewell ceremony she created. She felt that the practice of quietly handling death in a nursing home denied everyone the opportunity to celebrate the life of a resident and grieve the loss.

When a VVH resident is called home, staff, residents, volunteers, family members, and visitors line the main hall and are given small American flags. The family and caregivers walk with the casket as the staff and residents crowd the

front hall singing Amazing Grace and waving their flags. "Our Veterans deserve dignity and gratitude for their service to the country. The 'Hail and Farewell' is the final tribute of respect we can offer to our precious veterans," Newton said.

VVH has a reputation as a premier veterans' home. Newton credits her staff with making VVH such a huge success. "I'm proud as a peacock! There are so many people here who choose to work here because it gives them a sense of fulfillment.

We all share a simple philosophy: every day is Veterans Day. Our focus is the veterans and thanking them for their service," Newton said.

PETER S. CARNOHAN, MD, MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Peter S. Carnohan, M.D., believes the best career decision he made was accepting the medical director position at VVH, which he's held since it opened in 2006. "I enjoy working with this population. They are special members of our society; from day one, we thank them for their service," he said.

The average age of the veterans Carnohan serves is almost 85 years. He believes that this is a time the residents deserve TLC and a holistic approach. "I think that using all your senses to assess what's going on with a patient is sometimes lost in modern medicine. I try to treat the whole

person, not just symptoms," he said.

Carnohan is also seeing younger veterans with medical needs from the Gulf War and wars in Afghanistan and Iraq who need long-term care. "We're better at saving lives, so it's a different focus on them and their needs. They may be with us for decades, and we want them to have a high quality of life," he said.

The Rock Hill native and graduate of the Medical University of South Carolina comes from a line of physicians on his mother's side. "She planted the seed and encouraged me. I have her to

thank," he said.

He spends the majority of his time seeing the residents, providing check-ups, and attending to any medical issues they may have.

"The people living at Victory House are more than 'patients' or 'residents.' They are friends and heroes," he said. "The entire staff, from the resident care technicians to the director, is invested in their lives and it shows. We all work to provide our folks with the best possible care. It is an honor to meet and work with these veterans. They are truly deserving men and women."



Peter S. Carnohan, MD,
Medical Director

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DR. CARNOHAN

SHIRLEY A. ROBINSON, CDM, CFPP NUTRITIONAL SERVICES DIRECTOR

Orangeburg native Shirley Robinson has loved cooking since her ninth grade Home Economics class. So, after graduating from college, she began her career teaching culinary arts. For the last 21 years, she's brought that passion for cooking to food services, primarily in nursing homes. Robinson has brought it to VVH as the new director of Nutritional Services.

"This is a good fit for me. VVH is special because there is hands-on involvement from upper management, and it makes a big difference. Care starts from the top and trickles down," she said.

Robinson begins each day ensuring that the 23 Nutritional Services staff members

and the office are ready for the day, handling any problems early so that nutritious food can be prepared and served to the facility's 220 residents. "The residents always come first. I make sure the staff is okay so we can work to take care of the residents."

Nutritional Services works with a registered dietitian to meet the specific dietary needs of each resident, and special diets are made as prescribed by the attending physician. Three meals and three snacks are prepared on-site daily and served in the nursing units or in the Main Dining Hall. The Main Dining Hall offers a salad bar, buffet line, and lunch grill, giving

residents the option to choose whatever they like for their meals. Nourishment rooms throughout the facility are also open to residents 24/7. Because of its high quality standards, Nutritional Services has maintained an 'A' rating since it opened.

With so many different food needs, Robinson often calls upon her teaching background. "I like to teach proper methods and steps to make things easier so we can work smarter, not harder," she said.

Robinson values bringing sunshine and a smile to her work. "A happy person is a productive person," she said.



Shirley A. Robinson, CDM, CFPP
Nutritional Services Director



Sandy Britt, RN,
Staff Educator

SANDY BRITT, RN, STAFF EDUCATOR

VVH Staff Educator Sandy Britt, RN, didn't originally plan to become a nurse. But after the DuPont factory where she worked in her native Pennsylvania closed, Britt obtained a nursing degree. "Nursing chose me, I didn't choose it," she said. "It was a gift from God."

Family brought Britt from the mountains of Pennsylvania to the South Carolina Lowcountry. Her husband's mother lived here, her son, a Chief in the Navy, was stationed in Charleston at the time, and her daughter had moved here. "I had to come down, too!"

Britt started with VVH as a unit manager and has served as Staff Educator since August 2011. "I never envisioned working in a nursing home, but I still get chills when I walk through the door. It's a family here," she said.

As part of her duties, she manages the popular Stars and Stripes CNA Training Program, which teaches students to become Certified Nursing Assistants (CNA).

Out of 300 applications to the latest class, only 16 were accepted. "You can't teach compassion. They have to

have it when they come here," Britt said.

Stars and Stripes graduated its 22nd class in December 2011, and the lowest GPA was a 94.1. Students who successfully complete the five-week program can receive their education free if they work at the facility for a year, benefiting both the community and VVH. "I enjoy sharing knowledge. I present knowledge to them and they soak it up," Britt said.

Compassion and caring are the core values Britt brings to her work.



Niki Hunter,
CNA and Restorative Aide

NIKI HUNTER, CNA AND RESTORATIVE AIDE

For CNA and Restorative Aide Niki Hunter, there is never a dull moment working with the veterans on the Lyons unit. "I love to hear their stories and how their days are going, getting their perspectives, and meeting their families," she said.

In addition to her nursing duties, Hunter assists resi-

dents with their physical therapy to help them move and stay active.

Hunter successfully graduated from the VVH Stars and Stripes CNA Training Program a year ago, and has been with the facility ever since. Her ultimate goal is to become a nursing home administrator.

"I love it here, this is the best job I've ever had!" she said.

Hunter treats the residents of Lyons as if they were her own family. "I like to look out for others, I try to treat the residents as I want to be treated when I'm elderly. I hope someone will care for me the way I care for them now," she said.



Donna Hiers, CNA

DONNA HIERS, CNA

When 22-year-old Donna Hiers was fresh out of Waltherboro's Thunderbolt Career and Technology Center, she signed up for the VVH Stars and Stripes CNA Training Program. "I always wanted to be a nurse," she said, and helping care for her sick grandfather solidified her

choice of careers.

After she graduated from the program two years ago, Hiers began working full time at VVH on the Currey unit for residents with Alzheimer's. It takes a special person to work with Alzheimer's residents, and Hiers has the right combination of compassion, kind-

ness and patience to ensure their well-being. While each day is hectic, Hiers sees her work as fun.

The married mother of two toddlers doesn't plan to ever leave VVH. "I love coming here! VVH is special because we are here for the residents. We care how they feel."

VERA JENKINS, RESIDENTIAL CARE TECHNICIAN

Vera Jenkins was the very first staff member hired to work at VVH. Six years later, she still looks forward to coming to work and seeing the cheery faces of the residents on the dementia floor. "Every day is exciting, and every day is a different day," she said.

The youngest of 15 brothers and sisters, Jenkins is originally from Florence. Her family moved to Washington, D.C., when she was a child, but while visiting her grandmother in Florence, Jenkins loved it and decided to stay. She's active in the community and church with her two sons and brings that dedication to her work with VVH's vets.

"These guys, they paved the way for us. You have to treat them with respect."

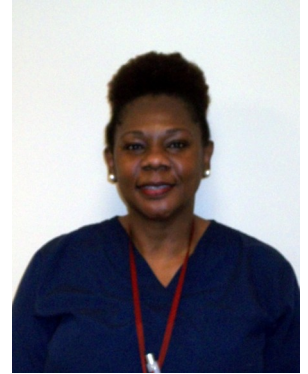
Jenkins understands that moving into a new residence can be difficult for the veterans. They don't know anyone yet and were used to being in their previous environments. And to some, moving into a nursing home "is like being in another war," Jenkins said.

"What you have to do is put yourself in their shoes. You have to feel what they are feeling. You have to be loving and understanding so they'll get comfortable. It takes a while, but before you know it, they get to know you and

trust you."

Jenkins works hard to ensure the residents are treated with the utmost care and dignity. "I want my residents to represent me. We have to go the whole nine yards. I like my hair done, my teeth brushed, and my clothes clean. They do, too." And to make sure of it, Jenkins often goes out and buys what is needed on her own because that's what she wants to do.

She believes that what makes VVH special is the caring. "You can see it. We are a family and we do what families do."



Vera Jenkins,
Residential Care Technician

JAMES A. WHITE, DIRECTOR COLLETON COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE

VVH has close working relationships with many businesses and organizations in the community, especially Veterans' Affairs.

Colleton County Veterans Affairs Office Director James White believes that VVH is the greatest venture Colleton County has ever seen. "I think a lot of people are seeing that. It's a beautiful spot, a beautiful facility and it's good for the community," he said.

White's primary duty is to assist veterans and their dependents with determining eligibility for and obtaining federal and state benefits administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

He makes it a point to "come

out and see the vets" at VVH each week. "I have an open door policy to everyone — loved ones as well as staff," White said. "The Victory House staff is great about working with me and referring folks who need assistance with their benefits."

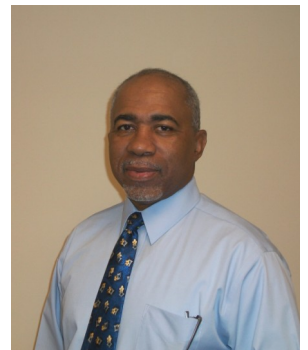
When it comes to helping veterans, White does whatever he can. "I don't favor one over another. If you served, then you deserve benefits."

In his efforts to help residents, he has obtained special geri-chairs for residents and even helped one "young man" obtain dentures, performing necessary research and personally hand-carried the com-

pleted paperwork to Charleston.

Born in Cottageville, White served over 20 years in the Army and has been the Colleton County Veterans Affairs Office director for the last 18 years. White is one of the key people instrumental in bringing VVH to Colleton County, benefiting not only the state's veterans, but the local people and economy, as well.

White knows that more facilities like VVH are needed. "Georgia, Florida, and North Carolina have more veterans' homes than South Carolina. South Carolina needs another one to keep up with demand," he said.



James A. White, Director
Colleton County
Veterans Affairs Office



TO SUPPORT THE RECOVERY OF
PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESSES.

SC DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

2414 Bull Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Phone: (803) 898 - 8581

WWW.SCDMH.ORG

VETERANS VICTORY HOUSE NURSING HOME

2461 Sidneys Road
Walterboro, SC 29488

843-538-3000

VVH PAVILION NAMESAKES:

Boatswain's Mate First
Class James Elliot
Williams – Medal of
Honor recipient, U.S.
Navy, Vietnam

Lance Corporal Rodney
J. Williams – U.S.
Marine Corps, Beirut

Captain John H.
Truluck – U.S. Air
Force, World War II,
Ace

Staff Sergeant Eugene
A. Lyons – U.S. Army,
World War II

Master Sergeant Francis
S. Currey – Medal of
Honor recipient, U.S.
Army, World War II



When Bernard Warshaw saw the need for an additional nursing home to serve our veterans, he became very involved with what is now known as the Veterans Victory House Nursing Home (VVH). From the early planning stages to the land clearing to working with architects and contractors on the design of the building, he's been a vital asset.

The VVH facility was designed with five pavilions,

each of which Warshaw helped name in honor of a military leader with ties to the local community.

At the Grand Opening in 2006, Warshaw gladly greeted over 1,500 guests who were eager to see the campus.

A true champion for both veterans and those with mental illness, Warshaw served over 20 years on the South Carolina Mental Health Commission and remains commissioner emeritus.

Warshaw's life philosophy is to "help our city, state, and country to be a better place to live." He attends functions of the VVH and visits often. He has served as an amazing supporter and is a true friend of Veterans Victory House.

Biography:

Warshaw earned his undergraduate degree from The Citadel in 1942. He joined the US Army and served three-and-a-half years, mostly overseas. After his discharge, he returned home to Warshaw's of Walterboro, a fine clothing store opened by his parents in 1920. He operated this business until he retired on his 80th birthday.

Warshaw received an honorary doctorate of business administration and humanities from The Citadel in 2001. The Colleton County Health and Human Services Office is named the Bernard Warshaw Building in his honor.